

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:
 - an engine control part for controlling an engine;
 - 5 a controller part connected in a communicable manner to said engine control part;
 - print scheduling means for setting a schedule of a print operation for every material for recording from said controller part to said engine control
 - 10 part;
 - a recording material discharging device control part connected in the communicable manner to said controller part and serving to control a recording material discharging device for discharging the
 - 15 recording material to outside;
 - recording material discharging schedule operation means for setting a schedule of a recording material discharging operation from said controller part to said recording material discharging device
 - 20 control part;
 - recording material discharging interval notifying means for notifying said controller part of a recording material discharging interval till said recording material discharging device becomes
 - 25 receivable of the recording material next time when said recording material discharging schedule operation means sets the schedule of the recording

material discharging operation for said recording
material discharging device control part; and

recording material discharging interval
designation means for notifying said engine control
5 part of information about the recording material
discharging interval of which said recording material
discharging interval notifying means has notified,
from said controller part,

wherein said engine control part sets the
10 recording material discharging interval designated by
said recording material discharging interval
designation means as a recording material discharging
interval from the recording material discharged by
said recording material discharging device last time,
15 and determines a print operation start timing in
consideration of the designated recording material
discharging interval and, in the case of performing
the print operation for a different sheet discharging
port after discharging the recording material to said
20 recording material discharging device last time, a
time expended for this print operation.

2. An image forming apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein the recording material discharging
25 interval designated by said recording material
discharging interval designation means is effective
in the recording material scheduled by said print

schedule means after said recording material
discharging interval designation means has designated
the recording material discharging interval.

- 5 3. An image forming apparatus comprising:
 an engine control part for controlling an
 engine;
 a controller part connected in a communicable
 manner to said engine control part;
- 10 print scheduling means for setting a schedule
 of a print operation for every material for recording
 from said controller part to said engine control
 part;
- a recording material supplying device control
15 part connected in the communicable manner to said
 controller part and serving to control a recording
 material supplying device for supplying the recording
 material;
- recording material supplying schedule operation
20 means for setting a schedule of a recording material
 supplying operation from said controller part to said
 recording material supplying device control part;
- recording material supplying interval notifying
 means for notifying said controller part of a
25 recording material supplying interval till the
 recording material can be supplied next time when
 said recording material supplying schedule operation

means sets the schedule of the recording material
supplying operation for said recording material
supplying device control part; and

recording material supplying interval

5 designation means for notifying said engine control
part of information about the recording material
supplying interval of which said recording material
supplying interval notifying means has notified, from
said controller part,

10 wherein said engine control part sets the
recording material supplying interval designated by
said recording material supplying interval
designation means as a recording material supplying
interval from the recording material supplied from
15 said recording material supplying device last time,
and determines a print operation start timing.

4. An image forming apparatus according to
claim 3, wherein the recording material supplying
20 interval designated by said recording material
supplying interval designation means is effective in
the recording material scheduled by said print
schedule means after said recording material
supplying interval designation means has designated
25 the recording material supplying interval.

5. An image forming apparatus comprising:

an engine control part for controlling an engine;

a controller part connected in a communicable manner to said engine control part;

5 print scheduling means for setting a schedule of a print operation for every material for recording from said controller part to said engine control part;

10 a recording material discharging device control part connected in the communicable manner to said controller part and serving to control a recording material discharging device for discharging the recording material to outside;

15 recording material discharging schedule operation means for setting a schedule of a recording material discharging operation from said controller part to said recording material discharging device control part;

20 recording material discharging interval notifying means for notifying said controller part of a recording material discharging interval till the recording material becomes receivable next time when said recording material discharging schedule operation means sets the schedule of the recording material discharging operation for said recording material discharging device control part;

recording material discharging interval

designation means for notifying said engine control
part of information about the recording material
discharging interval of which said recording material
discharging interval notifying means has notified,
5 from said controller part;

a recording material supplying device control
part connected in the communicable manner to said
controller part and serving to control a recording
material supplying device for supplying the recording
10 material;

recording material supplying schedule operation
means for setting a schedule of a recording material
supplying operation from said controller part to said
recording material supplying device control part;

15 recording material supplying interval notifying
means for notifying said controller part of a
recording material supplying interval till the
recording material can be supplied next time when
said recording material supplying schedule operation
20 means sets the schedule of the recording material
supplying operation for said recording material
supplying device control part; and

recording material supplying interval
designation means for notifying said engine control
25 part of information about the recording material
supplying interval of which said recording material
supplying interval notifying means has notified, from

said controller part,

wherein said engine control part determines a
print operation start timing on the basis of the
recording material supplying interval designated by
5 said recording material supplying interval
designation means and the recording material
discharging interval designated by said recording
material discharging interval designation means.

10 6. An image forming apparatus according to
claim 5, wherein the recording material discharging
interval designated by said recording material
discharging interval designation means is effective
in the recording material scheduled by said print
15 schedule means after said recording material
discharging interval designation means has designated
the recording material discharging interval, and
said engine control part sets the recording
material discharging interval designated by said
20 recording material discharging interval designation
means as a recording material discharging interval
from the recording material discharged by said
recording material discharging device last time, and
determines a print operation start timing in
25 consideration of, in the case of performing the print
operation for a different sheet discharging port
after discharging the recording material to said

recording material discharging device last time, a
time expended for performing the print operation for
the different sheet discharging port after
discharging the recording material to said recording
5 material discharging device last time and the
designated recording material discharging interval.

7. An image forming apparatus according to
claim 5, wherein the recording material supplying
10 interval designated by said recording material
supplying interval designation means is effective in
the recording material scheduled by said print
schedule means after said recording material
supplying interval designation means has designated
15 the recording material supplying interval.

8. An image forming apparatus according to
claims 5, wherein if said recording material
discharging interval designation means and said
20 recording material supplying interval designation
means designate the recording material discharging
interval and the recording material supplying
interval for the same recording material, said engine
control part starts the print operation at a timing
25 that meets both of conditions of the designated
recording material discharging interval and of the
designated recording material supplying interval.

9. An image forming apparatus according to
claim 6, wherein if said recording material
discharging interval designation means and said
recording material supplying interval designation
5 means designate the recording material discharging
interval and the recording material supplying
interval for the same recording material, said engine
control part starts the print operation at a timing
that meets both of conditions of the designated
10 recording material discharging interval and of the
designated recording material supplying interval.

10. An image forming apparatus according to
claim 7, wherein if said recording material
15 discharging interval designation means and said
recording material supplying interval designation
means designate the recording material discharging
interval and the recording material supplying
interval for the same recording material, said engine
20 control part starts the print operation at a timing
that meets both of conditions of the designated
recording material discharging interval and of the
designated recording material supplying interval.